

END OF MAY REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS.

Re-ablement in Cambridgeshire: a success story

Re-ablement is available to older people, adults aged 18 and above with physical disabilities and occupational therapy referrals. In order to cope with the continued demand for the service, Care UK and Beaumont Healthcare have been engaged to work integrally with Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust (CCS) who will oversee delivery of the service and ensure quality assurance. In developing the service further, we are working with an additional external provider who will work with existing service users to build confidence and support their continued independence.

Since the introduction in 2010, 2,900 people have completed a Re-ablement package, with 55% of people (in 2011/12) regaining their independence and requiring no further support at the end of their package. Re-ablement “works with” rather than “does for” people requiring short-term support to help them to regain their independence following illness or an operation. Programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally will not exceed six weeks.

Draft Care and Support Bill

The Queen’s Speech includes a plan to publish a draft Care and Support Bill during the next Parliamentary term. The Bill will aim to modernise care and support law, and promote personalisation of social care. In Cambridgeshire, the County Council and partners have taken comprehensive action towards personalisation and are working toward a position where all assessments and reviews (except crisis interventions) take place through a system of selfdirected support. As Cambridgeshire is currently one of the leading authorities on personalisation, these measures are likely to confirm the way we work rather than require any significant change in course. The Government has delayed its Care and Support Reform White Paper, which will address the reform of social care funding and the relationship between health and social care, until summer. The White Paper will offer an opportunity to examine further integration between Health and Social Care.

A14 progress

The Study has now completed its second phase which has proposed that a limited number of public transport, freight and highway packages should be taken into the third and final stage where they will be refined and assessed. From that work a recommended final multi –modal package and proposal will emerge for consideration by the Secretary of State, hopefully in July. The Local Authorities have been closely involved in the Study and are currently working with the DfT on funding options for the A14 improvements. In the mean time, interim arrangements over the next two years include £20m which has been made available to deliver projects to reduce congestion and increase resilience.

Measures include:

- *Extension of the Guided Busway Park and Ride facilities at St Ives to provide a further 500spaces,
- *Six extra signs to warn of congestion / delays on A14 for traffic leaving Cambridge and Huntingdon
- *Measures to improve the flow of traffic at Spittals and Girton Interchanges, and
- *Installation of signs between and Ellington and Fen Ditton on A14.
- *Additionally the Highways Agency is planning to introduce a “Minuteman” service along this length of A14 to assist with the swift removal of breakdowns.

Initial Adult Social Care user experience survey findings

The annual Adult Social Care Survey is a statutory survey written by the Department of Health, and issued by local authorities. The survey targets at a cross-section of all services users, and was issued in February 2012. The key findings from 505 responses are as follows:

- *63% of service users are “very” or “extremely” satisfied with the care and support services they receive – a 4% increase on the previous year’s results.
- *5% of service users rated their quality of life as “very good” or “so good it could not be better” – an 8% increase on the previous year’s results.
- *77% of service users said they have “adequate” or “as much control as I would like”. Whilst this is 2% lower than the previous year’s results, this is still high.
- *75% of people seeking information and advice found it “very” or “fairly” easy to find – a 3% increase on the previous year’s results.
- *83% of service users receive additional practical help and support from their partner, family or friends.

School Funding Reform

The Secretary of State for Education has published “School Funding Reform: Next Steps towards a fairer system”. The DfE want to create a simple, more consistent and transparent funding system for schools. In the main:

- *Local authorities will continue to be allocated amounts for each pupil through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) based on previous funding levels.
- *This is the last year Cambridgeshire will use its activity led funding formula and from 2013/14 we will have a much simplified funding formula limited to 10 specified factors. This will create significant turbulence for some Cambridgeshire schools but the Minimum Funding Guarantee will limit the funding reduction per pupil in the short term.
- *The new funding formula will also apply to academies, but there will be a 5 month time lag as academies are funded on an academic year basis.
- *The DfE are looking to replace the existing Local Government Formula Grant currently given to LA’s to fund specific central education services (such as Education Welfare Officers, Asset Management, and School Improvement) with a Department for Education Grant to be given to academies and LA’s on a national basis, proportionate to the number of pupils for which they are responsible. Details of the impact of this on CYPS are not yet known. The reforms will involve a big change to the way SEN is funded in schools.
- *There will be a move away from funding being based on teaching assistant hours included within a statement of SEN to funding being based on assessed need.
- *Specialist providers (e.g. special schools) funding will be based on actual pupil numbers combined with a base level of place funding to offer some stability.
- *The new approach will see provision for high needs pupils and students funded on a mixture of a place-led and a pupil-led basis. This approach will be known as “place-plus”. Under a place-plus approach high needs funding will comprise three elements (core education, additional support, and top up funding) which can be applied across all provision for high needs pupils and students.
- *Special schools will receive core funding of £10,000 base funding per place and top-up funding for individual pupils based on assessed need. The proposals are very complicated and there are some general concerns around the practicality of implementing some of the High Needs funding arrangements and further work needs to be undertaken to fully understand the impact and implications of these proposals.

Fostering Fortnight 14-27 May 12

Events have been taking place across the county to generate the recruitment of new foster carers and launching Cambridgeshire as Foster friendly authority supported through a variety of communication including the use of local press. Cambridgeshire County Council also keen to encourage its own staff to foster as well as encourage other big employers in the county to support their staff to foster.

Building Schools for the Future Fenland update

- *Completion of Phase 1 at Meadowgate Special School was achieved on the 1st May.
- *Planning permission was granted for the County School (Fenland Learning Base) project on 24th April 2012. The team is working to secure the remaining DfE approvals and complete contracts in order to start on site in August 2012.
- *The three projects affected by the insolvency of MJN Colston (Mechanical & Electrical subcontractor at Cromwell, Sir Harry Smith and Cromwell Leisure Suite) have recovery plans in place with the objective of achieving the original contract completion dates.
- *Work is ongoing to integrate the PFI contract at Thomas Clarkson College with the third party sponsor's plans for the college as part of its Academy conversion.

Open School East Project

The Open Schools East project has been established by four councils in the East of England to disseminate innovative and effective practice in schools in our region and to further joint practice development. Cambridgeshire, Central Bedfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk have asked schools to contribute school improvement case studies.

These focus on examples of effective practice in specific areas (such as pedagogical approaches, narrowing the gap initiatives and parental engagement) which contribute to whole school improvement. These are being collated and will be disseminated via an Open Schools East website to be launched towards the end of May.

The case studies can then be used to facilitate professional development visits between schools both within Cambridgeshire and across the region. To launch the project an 'open-school fortnight' is being organised from 25 June to 7 July 2012, which will allow head teachers and other colleagues to visit schools across the region. It is hoped that these professional development opportunities will enable participants to learn from the practice outlined in the case studies.

Achievement for All

Just over 50 schools across Cambridgeshire have signed up to implement Achievement for All (AfA) in their schools, many working together in small networks. AfA provides a school improvement framework that aims to raise the aspirations, access and achievement of pupils identified with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). The positive outcomes from the successful pilot clearly indicates that the approach can improve the progress and achievement of pupils with SEN, improve attendance and support better relationships with parents and carers. An Achievement Coach supports schools over a two year period and works with them to embed the AfA approach.

Local Economic Assessment

Cambridgeshire's economic assessment is being refreshed and will help inform the County and District Councils' sustainable community strategies and form part of the evidence base for a range of other strategies. It is expected to be published by the end of May 2012.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

Cambridgeshire's JSNA is being refreshed and a draft report providing an overview of JSNA work to date was submitted to the Cambridgeshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board in April. High-level finance and service activity for older people has been added to the current body of work, which will bring together data about the use of resources by local authorities. The JSNA will be used as the basis for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is to be developed and consulted on over the summer.

Corporate Performance Indicators

Working with Council Services, the Research and Performance Group is currently finalising the definitions of the indicators that Cabinet will use in 2012-13.

The key indicators are:

- *The percentage of Cambridgeshire residents aged 16-64 in employment.
- *The proportion of 16-19 year olds in education, employment or training.
- *The number of people starting as apprentices.
- *The number of people completing courses to improve their chances of employment or progression in work.
- *The proportion of people using social care services who have chosen how their support is provided.
- *The proportion of people living in Cambridgeshire who actively use a library service.
- *The number of looked after children per 10,000 children.
- *The proportion of plans for children and young people who need additional support that are successful.
- *The number of repeat incidents of domestic violence in supported cases.
- *The ratio of desks to members of staff.
- *The average number of days lost to sickness per full-time equivalent staff member.
- *The proportion of customer complaints received in the previous month that were responded to within minimum response times.

The performance of these indicators will be reported every month to Cabinet as part of The Integrated Resources and Performance Report.

New entrants on the County Farms Estate

This year 6 new rural business opportunities at Burwell, Chatteris, Earith, March and Soham (2) have been provided on the Council's Rural Estate. These were advertised both locally and nationally and attracted over 80 applications mostly from Cambridgeshire residents. Since 1998 almost 70 new tenant farmers have started rural businesses on the Estate and demand for holdings this year was higher than ever with a rising standard of good quality and entrepreneurial applications.

Drought impact on the Council's Farms Estate

Early concerns about the impact of the long dry winter have now turned and farmers are struggling with the impact of too much rain. However, ground water levels remain low and the Council has advised tenant farmers to continue to reduce water consumption. 11 winter abstraction water reservoirs have been built on the Estate by the Council and tenants, the largest holding 16 million gallons. These help reduce the impact of drier weather and more are planned using Government Rural Economy grants. Most of Cambridgeshire remains officially in drought.

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